

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A communication method, comprising:

selecting a common communication forum with at least two communication terminal
by at least two respective communication participants;

interconnecting the at least two communication terminals for a communication round
via a communication network and transmitting a data of a spoken language through said
communication network, if the at least two communication participants have selected the
common communication forum;

using the at least two communication terminals for at the least two communication
participants to communicate with each other by the spoken language in the communication
round via a communication network ~~without transmitting the data of the spoken language
through the chat server~~; and

managing said selecting and interconnecting by a chat server.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The communication method according to claim 1,
wherein at least one of the at least two communication terminals includes mobile devices, and
the communication network comprises at least one mobile network.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The communication method according to claim 1 or
2, further comprising:

selecting the communication forum by the at least one communication participant
from a list of defined communication forums via a menu structure.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The communication method according to claim 3, wherein said selecting the communication forum is performed by operating elements of the at least one communication terminal, the method further comprising:
displaying the menu structure on a display of the at least one communication terminal.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The communication method according to claim 3, wherein said selecting the communication forum is performed by a speech-controlled menu guidance by operating elements of the at least one communication terminal.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The communication method according to Claim 5, wherein at least one of the communication forums are available only to communication participants located in a particular geographical area.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The communication method according to Claim 6, the method further comprising:
denying an access of a communication participant requesting access to the communication forum by a communication participant who defined the communication forum.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The communication method according to Claim 1, wherein said interconnecting is performed by using a conference circuit.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The communication method according to Claim 1, said method further comprising:

registering one of the at least one communication participant for a particular communication forum when no other communication participant has yet selected the particular communication forum; and

starting a round of communication between the registered communication participant and at least one other communication participant when said at least one other communication participant has selected the particular communication forum.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The communication method according to Claim 8, the method further comprising:

registering one of the at least one communication participant for at least one communication forum by specifying additionally at least one other communication participant as a communication partner for the at least one communication forum; and

notifying the at least one communication participant if the at least one other communication participant has chosen the at least one communication forum.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The communication method according to Claim 1, wherein at least one of the communication forums have a temporally limited availability.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): A chat server comprising:

a communication module configured to connect the chat server with at least one communication network;

a table configured to store information about communication forums; and

a command module configured to receive and execute commands from communication participants, wherein the command module enables the communication participants to select one of the communication forums by said commands,

wherein the communication module is configured to interconnect at least two of the communication participants, who have selected a common communication forum for a round of communication, in which the communication participants communicate by spoken language over said at least one communication network, and the command module is further configured to receive over the at least one communication network said commands entered by said communication participants using communication terminals, and

wherein the communication participants communicate with one another by the communication terminals throughout said at least one communication network and a data of the spoken language is transmitted through said at least one communication network.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The chat server according to claim 12, wherein at least one of the communication terminals is a mobile device, and the at least one communication network comprises at least one mobile network.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The chat server according to Claim 12, wherein the command module is configured to allow the communication participants to select a communication forum from the table.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The chat server according to claim 14, wherein the command module is configured to prepare a list of the defined communication forums stored

in the table and transmit the list by the communications module to the communication terminals over the at least one communication network.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The chat server according to Claim 12, wherein at least one of an entry related to communication forums stored in the table contains information of a geographical limitation of the communication forums, and the command module is configured to set up geographically limited communication forums only to communication participants who are located in a geographic area described in said entry.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The chat server according to Claim 14, wherein at least one of an entry relating to communication forums stored in the table includes information on a first communication participant who has defined a respective communication forum, and the command module is configured to pass on commands from a second communication participant regarding the selection of one of the communication forums to the first communication participant and is configured to receive a command from the first communication participant to deny the second communication participant access to the respective communication forum.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The chat server according to Claim 17, wherein the communication module is configured to interconnect communication terminals for one of the communication rounds by a conference circuit.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The chat server according to Claim 12, wherein at least one of an entry relating to communication forums stored in the table includes

information about communication participants who have registered for a communication forum when no other communication participant has yet selected the communication forum, and the command module is configured to connect a communication round between the communication participant who has registered and at least one other communication participant when the at least one other communication participant has selected the communication forum.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The chat server according to Claim 12, wherein at least one of an entry relating to communication forums stored in the table includes information about first communication participants, who have registered for a selected communication forum, and about second communication participants, who have been specified as communication partners by the first communication participants, and the command module is configured to inform a registered first communication participant when a specified communication partner has chosen the selected communication forum.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The chat server according to Claim 12, wherein at least one of an entry relating to communication forums stored in the table includes information relating to a temporally limited availability.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The communication method according to Claim 1, wherein the communication network includes at least one of a GSM or a UMTS network.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The communication method according to Claim 1, further comprising:

defining a new communication forum; and
assigning the new communication forum to a designation by choosing a topic via a menu structure.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The communication method according to Claim 23, wherein said defining a new communication forum is performed by operating elements of the at least one communications terminal, the method further comprising:

displaying the menu structure on a display of the at least one communications terminal.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The communication method according to Claim 1, further comprising:

authorizing the at least one communication participant to the communication forum by requesting a personal access code entered by using said at least one communication terminal.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The communication method according to Claim 25, wherein said personal access code is stored in said at least one communication terminal as subscriber identification data.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The chat server according to Claim 12, wherein the communication network includes at least one of a GSM or a UMTS network.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The chat server according to Claim 12, wherein the command module is configured to allow the communication participants to define a new communication forum and to assign a topic to said new communication forum.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The chat server according to Claim 12, wherein said table includes information on the communication forums selected from the group consisting of: discussion topics, discussion target groups of communication participants, a number of communication participants, a temporal validity of the communication forum, a geographical validity of the communication forum, an instance of expiry data, or a language of the communication round.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The chat server according to Claim 12, further comprising

a checking module, wherein a personal access code is checked in accordance with information of the table and the personal access code received from the communication terminals.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The chat server according to Claim 16, wherein information on a geographic location of at least one of the communication terminals is sent to the chat server.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): The chat server according to Claim 31, wherein the information of the geographic location is determined by the communication terminals by at least one of a satellite-based position receiver or a terrestrial-based position receiver.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): The chat server according to Claim 13, wherein the chat server transmits a menu structure for the communication terminals as an applet via the at least one communication network to the communication terminals.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): A communication method, comprising:

- requesting access to at least one communication forum at a chat server for at least two communication participants by using at least two respective communication terminals;
- verifying information of the at least two participants by the chat server and authorizing the at least two participants to the at least one forum over a communication network if access conditions are met;
- uploading a menu structure to said at least two terminals for the use of the at least one communication forum;
- selecting a common communication forum with at least one terminal by the at least one participant by using said menu structure;
- interconnecting the at least one terminal for a communication round via the network, if the at least one participant has selected the common forum;
- using the at least one terminal for at the least one participant to communicate with other users of the common forum by the spoken language in the communication round via the network; and
- managing the verifying, the uploading, the selecting, and the interconnecting by the chat server.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): The communication method according to claim 34, wherein said verifying a personal access code has to be entered by the at least one terminal.

Claim 36 (Previously Presented): The communication method according to claim 34, wherein said verifying, an identification of the at least one participant is verified by using information of a SIM (subscriber identification module) module in said at least one terminal.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented): The communication method according to claim 36, wherein a geographic location of the at least one terminal is an access condition for at least one participant to participate at the common forum.

Claim 38 (Previously Presented): The communication method according to claim 37, wherein the geographic location of the at least one terminal is determined by a satellite-based positioning system.

Claim 39 (Previously Presented): The communication method according to claim 37, wherein the geographic location of the at least one terminal is determined by a terrestrial receiver (TPS).

Claim 40 (Previously Presented): The communication method according to claim 34, wherein the menu structure and data related to the menu is uploaded in an applet via the network to the at least two terminals.

Claim 41 (Previously Presented): The communication method according to claim 34, wherein the menu structure and data related to the menu is uploaded by using at least one of short message service SMS or unstructured supplementary services data USSD to the at least two terminals.

Claim 42 (Previously Presented): The communication method according to claim 34, wherein said at least one terminal is at least one of GSM (global system for mobile communications) or UMTS (universal mobile telecommunications system) mobile phone.

Claim 43 (Previously Presented): The communication method according to claim 34, wherein said network comprises digital mobile phone networks and ISDN (integrated services digital network) networks.

Claim 44 (Previously Presented): The communication method according to claim 34, further comprising:

sending, before said interconnecting, information on the common forum to the at least one participant.

Claim 45 (Previously Presented): The communication method according to claim 44, wherein said information on the common forum is selected from the group consisting of a geographic distance between users of the common forum, a language used in the common forum, and a number of communication participants taking part in the common forum.